

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5b
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
March 4, 2020

Fisheries Under Consideration: Select Area Commercial Fisheries

Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent reports are the 2020 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 17, 2020) and the 2020 spring/summer report for Chinook, sockeye, steelhead, and other species (February 7, 2020). Links to the on-line reports are <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river> and <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>

STOCK STATUS

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through March 2 totals 7 fish, compared to the 5- and 10-year average of 8 fish.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Forecasts and management guidelines for 2020 spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheets #2b and #3a.

2020 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Select Area Commercial Spring Chinook Fisheries

- Combined Select Area winter-season landings through March 3 total 43 Chinook and 67 white sturgeon.
- Winter season fishing periods are scheduled to continue in Oregon Select Area sites through April 14, and spring fisheries open April 16.
- Ex-vessel price remains high, with Chinook averaging \$17.72/pound and white sturgeon averaging \$3.90/pound recently.
- The currently adopted winter season fishing schedule includes progressively restrictive regulations (area and time) starting next week which is intended to maintain fishing opportunity while minimizing interception of non-local stocks.
- Through March 3, 72% (31 fish) of the landed spring Chinook have been sampled for visual stock identification with all fish being classified as lower-river origin. Two coded-wire tags have been collected, both of which were lower river stock (one SAFE-origin, one Willamette-origin).
- Commercial fishers have requested a modest expansion of next weeks' fishing periods in the Youngs Bay (three, 4-hour periods) and Tongue Point (two, 4-hour periods) Select Area sites.
- Staff believes additional fishing time can be provided next week in these two sites without significantly increasing interception of non-local stocks.

Recommendation: 2020 Select Area Commercial Fisheries

Youngs Bay (State Action; Zone 70)

Modify the previously adopted fishing periods for March 9-13 in Youngs Bay as follows:

- 6 AM to 6 PM Monday March 9 (12 hours)
- 6 AM to 6 PM Wednesday March 11 (12 hours)
- 6 AM to 6 PM Thursday March 12 (12 hours)

Tongue Point (Compact Action; Zone 71)

Modify the previously adopted fishing periods for March 9-13 in Tongue Point as follows:

- 7 PM Monday March 9 to 7 AM Tuesday March 10 (12 hours)
- 7 PM Thursday March 12 to 7 AM Friday March 13 (12 hours)

All other previously adopted regulations for these sites remain in effect.

- The proposed modifications expand fishing hours in Tongue Point to match those previously adopted for the adjoining South Channel site. In Youngs Bay, the proposed modification provides the same open days and hours that are in affect this week.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The treaty tribes may request a Compact Hearing be scheduled for March 10, 2020 to consider additional winter fisheries. A Compact/Joint State hearing is scheduled for 10 AM April 15 to consider recreational spring Chinook fisheries. The Joint Staff will continue to monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.